

Claims:

1. A closure mechanism for a beverage preparation machine comprising a lower part and an upper part, the upper
5 part and lower part being movable relative to one another from an open position in which a beverage cartridge can be received in the closure mechanism and a closed position in which the beverage cartridge is fixedly retained between the upper part and lower part,
10 wherein in the closed position the closure mechanism contacts a top surface and a bottom surface of the beverage cartridge at or near a center of the beverage cartridge to exert a compressive force of greater than 50N.
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2. A closure mechanism as claimed in claim 1 wherein the closure mechanism exerts a compressive force of greater than 130N.
- 20 3. A closure mechanism as claimed in claim 1 wherein the closure mechanism exerts a compressive force of approximately 200N.
4. A closure mechanism as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
25 closure mechanism contacts an uppermost surface of the beverage cartridge.
5. A closure mechanism as claimed in claim 4 wherein the
30 closure mechanism in addition contacts a peripheral flange of the beverage cartridge.

6. A closure mechanism as claimed in claim 5 further comprising a resilient member which contacts at least a part of the top surface of the beverage cartridge
- 5 7. A closure mechanism as claimed in claim 6 wherein the resilient member is a sprung member.
8. A closure mechanism as claimed in claim 7 wherein the sprung member is a viewing window.
- 10 9. A closure mechanism as claimed in claim 8 wherein the lower part comprises a raised portion which contacts a central portion of the bottom surface of the beverage cartridge.
- 15 10. A closure mechanism as claimed in claim 9 wherein the lower part is fixed and the upper part is rotatable relative to the lower part from the open position to the closed position.
- 20 11. A closure mechanism as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a cartridge mount interposed between the lower part and the upper part and being rotatable relative to the lower part and the upper part for receiving, in use, the beverage cartridge.
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